



Excoecaria agallocha

Palétuvier aveuglant

Family : Euphorbiaceae

Excoecaria agallocha is a species of mangrove growing on the coast, in the backshore. This small tree (10 to 15m high) has very extensive and radiating cable roots.

Its deciduous leaves produce a small white milk very irritating, dangerous for the eyes from where its name of blinding mangrove tree.

The trees are male or female (dioecious species). Male flowers form drooping tassels, while female flowers appear as shorter spikes. Pollinators such as bees like to visit them.



Virtues

Ecology

- Plant with creeping roots that fix the soil



Traditional uses

- Fishermen sometimes rub their bodies with leaves to ensure good fishing
- Dried and powdered leaves hold poison and can kill fish very quickly or be used on a poisoned dart



Pharmacopoeia

- Heated leaves to relieve the pain of sea urchin, jellyfish, ray and scorpion fish stings



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